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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

OCI #0700/68
13 March 1968Yugoslav Soldiers Violate Austrian Border

The Yugoslav Ambassador in Vienna has been handed a "sharp" protest over the violation of Austrian territory on 9 March by Yugoslav soldiers. The incident occurred when several Yugoslav soldiers crossed the Austrian border and seized a fleeing refugee approximately 30 meters in Austria.

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COMMENT: This incident is highly unusual since the Yugoslav borders have been in the past relatively easy to cross and Yugoslavia has traditionally been an escape route for east Europeans fleeing to the west. Recent unconfirmed reports indicate that Yugoslav officials are turning back Albanian and Bulgarian defectors at the border, which if true, and coupled with the Austrian incident may indicate Belgrade is acquiescing to East European complaints about Yugoslav laxity on escapes.

East Germans React Negatively To Kiesinger's Speech

The initial East German reaction to West German Chancellor Kiesinger's "state of the nation" speech was predictably negative. The official GDR news agency ADN commented on 11 March that Kiesinger "confirmed... the aggressive internal and external course of his government," and "called for an end to the status quo."

In discussing Kiesinger's offer to negotiate a renunciation of force agreement, ADN stated that the Chancellor had "rejected an internationally guaranteed agreement" and had "excluded a binding agreement on the basis of equality." The news agency also belittled the chancellor's offer to begin talks on this subject by stating that he had made even "noncommittal" talks on the subject contingent on the "arrogant" condition that the GDR not be recognized.

ADN also found that Kiesinger's alleged objections to the NPT "made plain" Bonn's role as an international troublemaker.

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COMMENT: ADN's commentary, particularly that portion dealing with Kiesinger's offer to negotiate a renunciation

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of force agreement, is somewhat strained and suggests that the East Germans will have some difficulty justifying further negativism. [redacted] 25X1

Ouster of High Yugoslav Party Official Rumored

Executive committee secretary Mijalko Todorovic, officiall 25X1
the second ranking party functionary, is to be ousted at a 25X1
13 or 14 March combined meeting of the committee and the
party presidium. [redacted]

COMMENT: There has been no previous indication that Todorovic, who is closely identified with the regime's liberal economic and political reforms, is in trouble. However, a combined presidium and executive committee meeting at which problems of the further implementation of the economic reform was discussed; was held on 11-12 March. If Todorovic was removed from office, the action will be announced at the Central Committee plenum now planned for around 18-20 March. Although his removal is unlikely, it is possible that continued disunity in the party has led Tito to delegate the task of reorganization to someone else.

East German Foreign Minister Now in India

The East German news agency ADN reported on 11 March that Foreign Minister Winzer arrived that day in New Dehli after making a short stop in Bombay on the 10th. Winzer was received by Indian President Zakir Husain, and took the occasion to explain the political aspects of the GDR draft constitution.

Winzer arrived in India after spending a week in Cambodia and several days in Burma. [redacted] 25X1
While in Cambodia he met with various officials, including Sihanouk and the Foreign Minister, Prince Phurissara. According to the East German press, Winzer and Sihanouk exchanged platitudes about "gratitude for support" and "developing further relations." Sihanouk reportedly stated that Cambodia will continue its policy of "recognizing" two German states, and Winzer remarked that this policy is "convincing proof" of Cambodia's neutral policy. Apparently at no time did either refer publicly to the fact that Cambodia actually does not recognize East Germany diplomatically. Nor does the East German press coverage suggest that Cambodia plans to upgrade its relations with the GDR.

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A Soviet Embassy official in East Berlin, however, asserted to a Berlin Mission officer that Winzer's current tour is not aimed at gaining immediate recognition of the GDR but only at improving bilateral relations. [REDACTED]

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Soviet Official Explains GDR Travel Ban

A Soviet Embassy official informed a member of the Berlin Mission on 11 March that the East German ban on travel by members of the NPD was a form of reaction to the continued West German "provocations" in West Berlin, the last of which was the Bundestag Week. Questioned about the link between the meetings and the ban, the Soviet diplomat vaguely replied that the NPD has close support from Bonn and reflected the government's position on many issues. Hence, the travel ban. He also gave a "non-answer" to a question about possible further GDR moves to limit travel.

The Soviet official also discoursed at length on the dangers of alleged Nazism in the FRG and the need for the NPD to be outlawed both in West Germany and West Berlin. He also remarked that since the Allies had ignored the obligation of the Potsdam agreement to stamp out and oppose Nazism, the Soviets felt under no obligation to adhere to agreements concerning German access rights to Berlin. At no time, however, did he allude to Allied access rights.

The Mission also reported that apart from stories by one or two truck drivers about being questioned as to their party affiliation, there have been no further reports of the East Germans implementing the decree. It added that it expected the East Germans to move circumspectly, a tactic which will enable them to avoid dramatic confrontations and to obtain gradually general recognition by default of their right to implement the decree. [REDACTED]

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